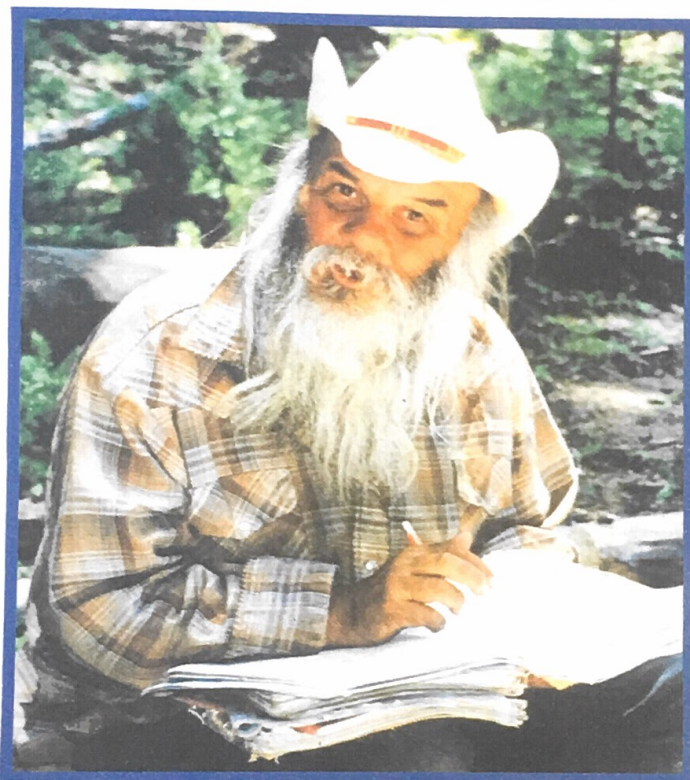


Rainbow Family Life Stories



by Jodey Bateman.
Interviews with Rainbow
Family of Living Light
folks conducted between
1977 and 2008.

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14.C

DANIEL - "My Young Life"

- interviewed at the 1978
Oregon Gathering

2 pages

[14.C]

Daniel - My Young Life

[Daniel is Oro's son. He gave this interview when he came to the 1978 Oregon Rainbow Gathering with his mother.]
I will be 15 July 17, 1978. I was born in 1963 in Oklahoma City. I have an older sister who is 19. My father owns land where he raises cattle. When my mother was married to him, she was in the woman stay at home and clean trip. But she divorced him a year or two after I was born and we traveled around.

When I was real young, I don't remember any of our travels, but supposedly we went to California and stayed there a while and I can remember we went to Florida and stayed there for a year. And of course we lived in Norman, Oklahoma, a good deal of my young life. I was the first kid in the sixth grade to wear my hair down my back. If any other kids wore their hair past their shoulders, the principal had them cut it. About then my mother took the name Oro.

I like writing stories - medieval fantasies. They always turned out real, real long. I like adventure stories of the Middle Ages like The Hobbit. Fantasy Middle Ages, not real Middle Ages.

In school, I was into space. I designed seven space ships - real big ones, down to the rooms. The first ship I designed had nine floors to it. And it was a real simple ship because it was the first one I designed. And I moved on to bigger and better ships, like 24 floors. Like I finally got to ships with forests on them to provide oxygen. Finally I had a huge, spherical ship with a whole created world inside. It was a realistic world. Like it was a phosphorus tube. Man, I wrote a lot on that. I really thought it would work. Like I can't design an imaginary fake-o ship and not be able to say realistically. The ship could be black and when the sun's rays hit it, it could propel it. But the space ships started becoming so big they were unrealistic and I don't like unrealistic things.

We moved to Stillwater in 1975 because of the heat my father was putting on, all the legal hassles. I was staying out of school completely - and my dad didn't like it. I don't think school is progressive enough.

and its not stimulating.

My mother set up DM Cooking restaurant when we moved to Stillwater. My sister waited and cooked there. The Rainbow Family brought a bunch of buses into our yard. I thought it was pretty neat. I still didn't go to school. My father sent somebody legal to our house and took me and my sister to court about it. He took us to his house in Chandler, Oklahoma. Then my father had us put in a foster home. But we ran away to Horse Thief Canyon near Stillwater. My sister and I hid out there for several days. Then my mother picked us up on the court day. After we went to the court, they decided we had to live with our dad. So my dad was waiting for us outside the court and he put us in the Chandler school. My mother picked us up one day and took us to Fairbanks, Alaska.

I liked Fairbanks, but it was a city. It just had a lot of snow, that's all the difference. It was a boom town because they were putting the pipeline through and that affected it in population and smog. From Fairbanks we visited in Dawson City, Yukon - Canada. It was such a neat little town, we decided to move there. There were 300 people there and we lived in an eight-sided cabin. I went skiing and learned to drive a snowmobile. We were in Yukon Territory for a winter. From Canada we went to Kodiak Island, Alaska. Kodiak Island is where we broke up with my sister. My mother and I came back to Oklahoma because my grandmother supposedly had only a few months to live.

We went to the New Mexico Rainbow Gathering in 1977. I got sick near the end, but I liked the gathering or I wouldn't be at this one in Oregon. The spiritual energy of the gatherings attracts a lot of people.

[Daniel] bicycled down from Alaska to the 1979 Arizona Gathering - age not yet 16. In 1981 he went to the Washington Gathering after graduating from a special high school in Alaska. He said it was more serious and less druggy than the school he attended in Oklahoma. Or, his mother has been part of a holistic healing center in Hawaii much of the time for the last few years.]